

REMARKS

Claims 2, 3, 11-59, and 68-80 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 60, and 81-86 have been amended to clarify the subject matter regarded as the invention. Claims 1, 4-10, 60-67, and 81-86 are pending.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §112

First Paragraph

On Page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner states that Claims 1, 4-10, and 60-84 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. As Claims 1, 4-10, 60-67, and 81-86 are pending, Applicants will treat the Examiner's rejection as having been intended to reject all pending claims.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. By way of example and without limitation, Pages 10-11 of the Specification describe the use of different types of auctions in various embodiments. A portion of the Specification is reproduced for the Examiner's convenience:

“The present invention may also be utilized in connection with auctions other than reverse auctions. For example, the present invention may be advantageously utilized with forward auctions, wherein the party offering the highest priced qualified bid, rather than the lowest priced qualified bid, is awarded the goods or services being sold. In the case of a forward auction, the leading bid is the highest amount offered and the leading bidder 30 is the purchaser party 10 making that highest offer, while in a reverse auction, the leading bid is the lowest amount offered and the leading bidder 30 is the supplier party 30 making that lowest bid. Similarly, placing a ‘better bid’ in a reverse auction indicates placing a lower bid, while placing a ‘better bid’ in a forward auction indicates placing a higher bid.” [Specification, pp. 10-11]

Second Paragraph

Also on Page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner states that the claims are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Independent Claims 1 and 60, and dependent Claims 81-86 have each been amended in a manner that is believed to overcome the rejection. As the remaining claims depend, whether directly or indirectly, from one of the aforementioned independent claims, the Examiner's rejections of all pending claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph are believed to have been overcome.

Requirement for Information – 37 C.F.R. §1.105

Regarding the Examiner's request under 37 C.F.R. § 1.105: The requested information is either unknown, or is not readily available to, Applicants or to Applicants' undersigned representative.

The foregoing amendments are not to be taken as an admission of unpatentability of any of the claims prior to the amendments.

Reconsideration of the application and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested based on the preceding remarks. If at any time the Examiner believes that an interview would be helpful, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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